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January is Cervical Health Awareness Month
Learn more at www.nccc-online.org

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), approximately 12,000 women in the United States are each year. In Florida, there were 914 new cases and 345 deaths (Florida Cancer Data System). Most cervical cancer cases occur in women who have not been screened with a Pap test or have not been screened in the past

Nearly all cervical cancers are caused by HPV. HPV is a common skin virus that is passed from one person to another during sexual activity. The HPV vaccination series can help prevent multiple cancers, including cervical cancer and cancer of the head, mouth, neck and throat.

DOH-Pinellas offers HPV vaccines at no cost to young people at no cost through the age of 18 at its locations in St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Clearwater, Mid-County (Largo) and Tarpon Springs. For information about the HPV vaccine and others offered at DOH-Pinellas, go to <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html>.

Talk to your medical provider about when a Pap test is most appropriate for you. Tests for specific HPV strains can support earlier diagnosis of cervical cancer. When found early, it is highly treatable.

(more)

According to CDC, follow these tips to reduce your risk or prevent cervical cancer:

- Get the HPV vaccine;
- See your doctor regularly for a Pap test if you are a woman between the ages of 21 and 65;
- Do not smoke; and
- Limit your number of sexual partners.

The DOH Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is available statewide. This program provides Pap tests and mammograms to women ages 50-64, who are uninsured and are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

For more information and to see if you qualify, contact DOH-Pinellas at (727) 824-6917 or go to <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/bccp/index.html>.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/index.html> or follow us on Twitter [@HealthyPinellas](https://twitter.com/HealthyPinellas).

About the Florida Department of Health

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